

MARVEL

15

LGY#615

SLOTT
ZUB
RAMÍREZ
MANNA
DELGADO

TONY STARK

IRON MAN



Billionaire playboy and genius industrialist Tony Stark was kidnapped during a routine weapons test. His captors attempted to force him to build a weapon of mass destruction. Instead he created a powered suit of armor that saved his life. From that day on, he used the suit to protect the world as the invincible Avenger Iron Man.

TONY STARK

IRON MAN

ECHO CHAMBER

When Stark Unlimited's virtual reality world was corrupted, Tony was tricked into taking a drink--his first in years. Though the drink was part of the simulation, Tony considers it a very real betrayal of his sobriety--one he's struggling to deal with alongside the revelation that rebooting his DNA to cheat death left him little more than a copy of the true Tony Stark!

Meanwhile, Tony has also been dealing with the absence of Jocasta, who quit after learning Tony downloaded Friday's A.I. system back into his suit--an action that led to her death. To make matters worse, Jocasta has turned to Arno Stark for help in upgrading her humanity, unaware that Arno and his team at Baintronics have been behind much of the chaos at Stark Unlimited!

STARK OS

v.LGY_615

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

CAPITOL HILL.



SO, MR. STARK, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT YOU'RE NOT TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR COMPANY'S DISASTROUS eSCAPE MACHINES?

I'M SAYING THE CONTROLLER HACKED INTO OUR NETWORK.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. AREN'T YOU IN CONTROL OF WHAT YOUR COMPANY DOES?

I KNOW IT'S A BIT CONFUSING, BUT THE CONTROLLER IS A SUPER VILLAIN. HE CAUSED THIS. WE'RE TRYING TO FIX IT.

STARK UNLIMITED IS WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ALL OVER THE WORLD TO TRACK DOWN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND HELP PAY FOR DAMAGES.

I SHOULD THINK SO. YOUR COMPANY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO CLEAN UP AFTER ITS OWN MESS.

HOW WAS THIS DANGEROUS SYSTEM ALLOWED TO LAUNCH?

THE PROTOCOLS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE WERE OVERRIDDEN BY A CORRUPT OPERATING A.I.

"A.I."...WHAT DOES THAT MEAN EXACTLY?

IT STANDS FOR "ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE."

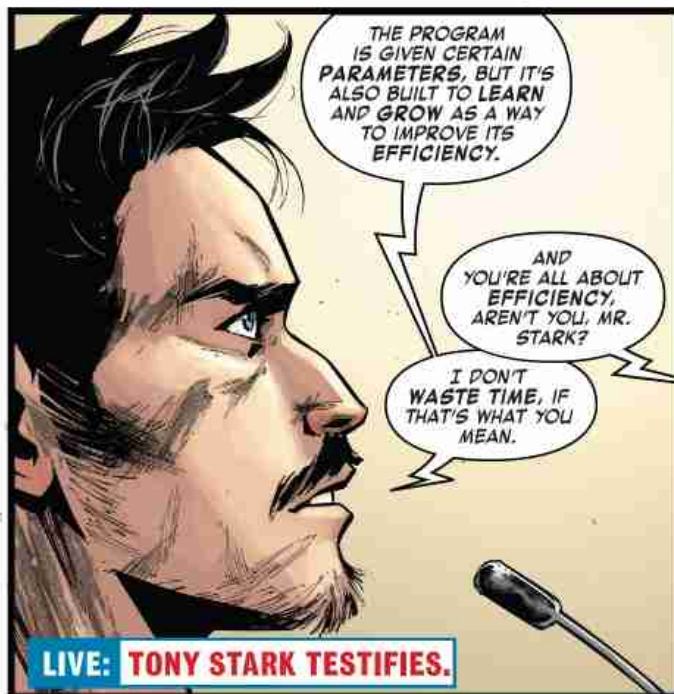
SO IT'S A ROBOT? YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH ROBOTS, AREN'T YOU?

IT'S A PROGRAM THAT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE A PHYSICAL SHELL, SENATOR.

OKAY, BUT WHO IS TELLING THAT ARTIFICIAL THING WHAT TO DO? IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE THE BOSS, AREN'T YOU?

TONY STARK, C.E.O. OF STARK UNLIMITED.
C-SPAN CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON THE eSCAPE SCANDAL.

SENATOR MILES BRICKMAN.

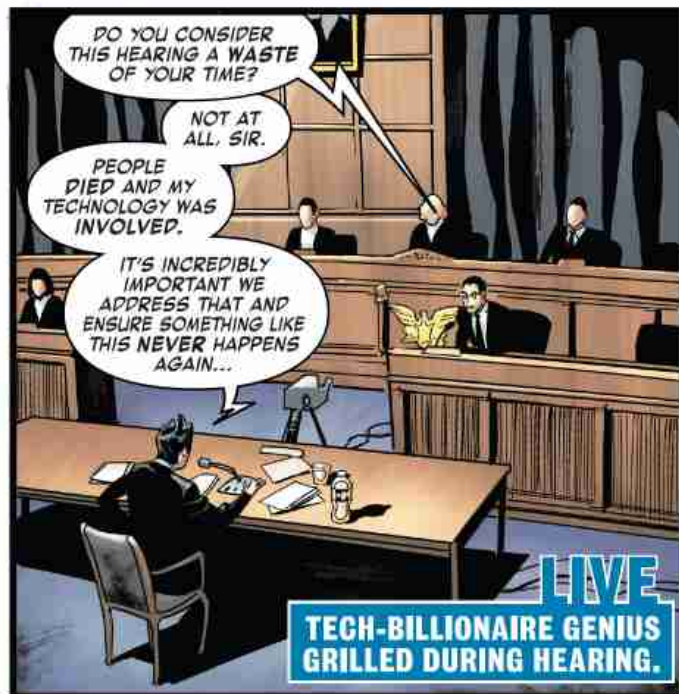


THE PROGRAM IS GIVEN CERTAIN PARAMETERS, BUT IT'S ALSO BUILT TO LEARN AND GROW AS A WAY TO IMPROVE ITS EFFICIENCY.

AND YOU'RE ALL ABOUT EFFICIENCY, AREN'T YOU, MR. STARK?

I DON'T WASTE TIME, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.

LIVE: TONY STARK TESTIFIES.



DO YOU CONSIDER THIS HEARING A WASTE OF YOUR TIME?

NOT AT ALL, SIR.

PEOPLE DIED AND MY TECHNOLOGY WAS INVOLVED.

IT'S INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT WE ADDRESS THAT AND ENSURE SOMETHING LIKE THIS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN...

LIVE
TECH-BILLIONAIRE GENIUS GRILLED DURING HEARING.



THERE ARE TWO MAJOR TYPES OF A.I., AREN'T THERE?

"DIRECTED" AND "AUTONOMOUS"...

THAT'S CORRECT, BUT--

THE ESCAPE NETWORK SHOULD HAVE BEEN A TIGHTLY MONITORED DIRECTED SYSTEM, BUT YOU ENABLED AN AUTONOMOUS ENTITY TO MAKE IMPORTANT POLICY DECISIONS.



LIKE I SAID, MOTHERBOARD'S A.I. WAS CORRUPTED.

SO IS THIS "MOTHERBOARD" RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION THAT RESULTED FROM ITS ACTIONS?

POSSIBLY...



LET ME PHRASE IT ANOTHER WAY--ARE A.I. RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHOICES THEY MAKE?

IF AN A.I. IS FULLY AUTONOMOUS, THEN MAYBE THEY ARE, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THAT'S BEEN DEFINITELY DECIDED IN A COURT OF LAW.

OF COURSE, THIS "MOTHERBOARD" OF YOURS IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR TESTIMONY OR ABLE TO BE CHARGED WITH CRIMES BECAUSE SHE WAS "DESTROYED"...

CORRECT.



YOU'VE UPGRADED YOUR OWN MIND AND BODY USING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, HAVE YOU NOT, MR. STARK?

YES, I HAVE.

COULD YOU GIVE US A PERCENTAGE OF HOW MUCH OF YOUR MIND AND BODY IS STILL YOUR OWN?

THAT'S... THAT'S KIND OF COMPLICATED.

INTERESTING. IN THAT CASE, CAN YOU PROVE THAT YOU YOURSELF ARE NOT SOME FORM OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE?

THAT WOULD SEEM ABSURD, WOULDN'T IT?

MR. STARK, MAY I REMIND YOU, SIR, THAT YOU ARE UNDER OATH!

I...

IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT I AM AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

YEESH...

JAMES "RHODEY" RHODES.

MILITARY LIAISON TO STARK UNLIMITED.

PAMMIT, TONY!

THE WASP.

JANET VAN DYNE.
TONY STARK'S PARAMOUR.

ANDY BHANG.

CHIEF TECHNOLOGIST
AT STARK UNLIMITED.

YOWZA!

SERIOUSLY?!

BETHANY CABE

STARK UNLIMITED
HEAD OF SECURITY.

**HAAAA
HAAAA
HAA!**

SUNSET BAIN.

C.E.O. OF BAINTRONICS.

The C-SPAN Livestream
is struggling under an
unprecedented number of
simultaneous viewers.

We apologize for
any latency issues.

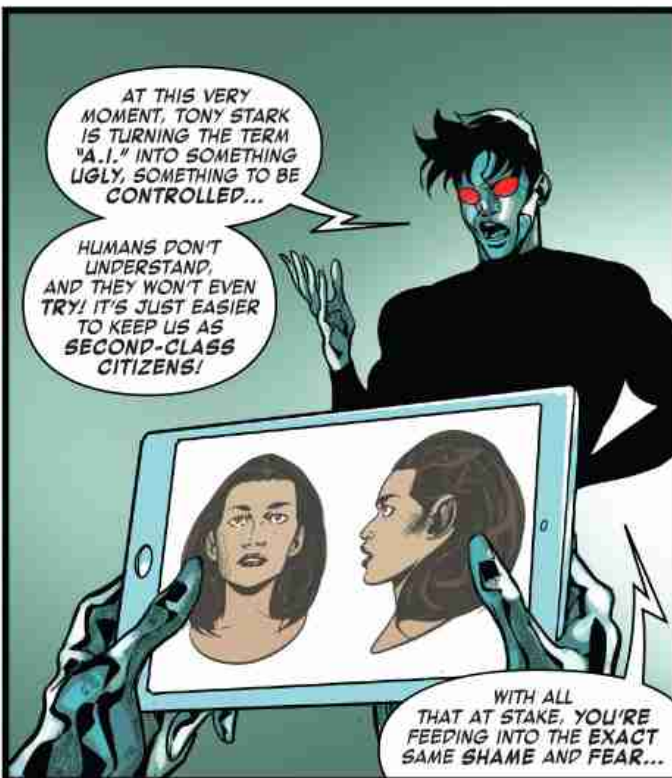
WELL, THAT'S
QUITE THE
BOMBSHELL,
ISN'T IT?

MOTHER.
FATHER. IF YOU'LL
EXCUSE ME, I HAVE
TO PAUSE THIS--AND
YOUR PROGRAMS--
FOR A MOMENT.

I'M
EXPECTING
A SPECIAL
GUEST...

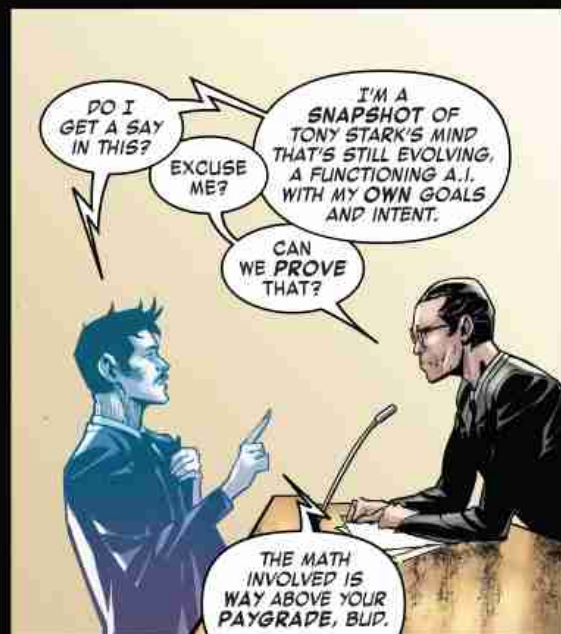
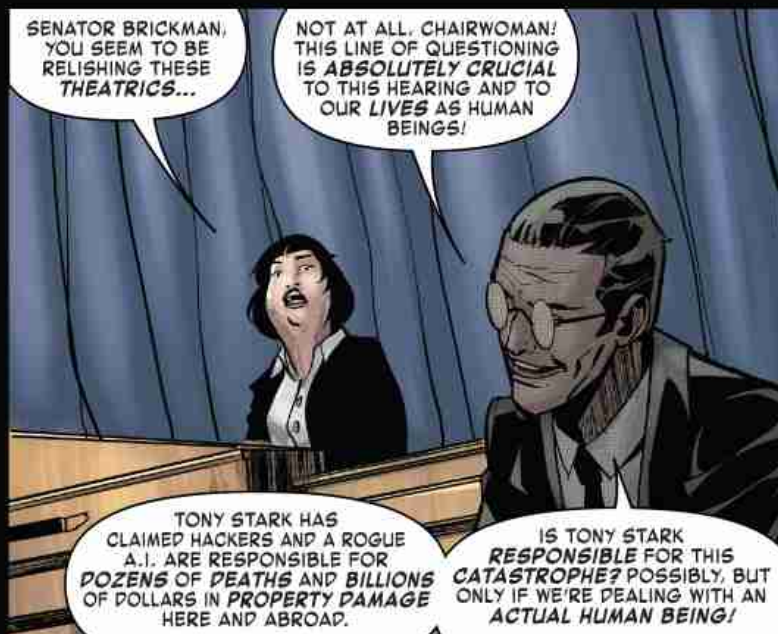
ARNO STARK

TONY STARK'S SMARTER
BROTHER. CURRENTLY
WORKING WITH BAINTRONICS.



CAPITOL HILL







AVENGERS MANSION. MANHATTAN.

SIMON,
I'M SURPRISED
TO SEE YOU
HERE.

SAME
HERE,
VIZH.

I'M
GUESSING WE
GOT THE SAME
CALL?

IDENTITY
CONFIRMED: SIMON
WILLIAMS, A.K.A.
WONDER MAN.

IDENTITY
CONFIRMED:
VISION.

TONY STARK CONTACTED ME.
I BELIEVE THIS PERTAINS
TO HIS CURRENT LEGAL
SITUATION.

EXPLANATIONS
AROUND MY
EXISTENCE AS AN
ARTIFICIAL BEING
WILL PROBABLY BE
REQUIRED.

MAKES
SENSE.

I'M ASSUMING
TONY WANTS ME THERE TO
TALK ABOUT HOW TO KNOW
THAT YOU'RE YOU WHEN YOU
COME BACK TO LIFE...



MASTER
WILLIAMS
AND MASTER
VISION!

HOW GOOD
TO SEE YOU
BOTH SO
PROMPTLY.

HEY,
JARVIS.



DO COME THIS WAY,
GENTLEMEN.

I DIDN'T
EVEN THINK THE
TEAM WAS USING
THE MANSION
ANYMORE.

I DON'T
BELIEVE
THEY ARE.

IT'S
KINDA HARD
TO KEEP
TRACK...



OKAY, RHODEY. WHAT'S THE LATEST WITH OUR BILLIONAIRE BUFFOON?

WHICH ONE?

THE REAL ONE... THE ONE WITH A BODY.

HE'S BACK AT STARK UNLIMITED, AND IT'S YOUR TURN TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, JANET...



STARK DOESN'T SPEAK FOR ME!

A.I. RIGHTS = HUMAN RIGHTS.

**A.I. RIGHTS!
A.I. RIGHTS!
A.I. RIGHTS!**

DID YOU KNOW THERE'S A CROWD OF ROBOTIC PROTESTERS OUT HERE?

YEAH, IT'S GETTING NASTY OUT THERE. TONY'S TESTIMONY HAS TICKED OFF EVERYBODY. MAN AND MACHINE.

?SIGH?

I DREAM OF ELECTRIC SHEEP!

I AM NOT YOUR PROGRAM

WONDERFUL. SO BESIDES US, HE DOESN'T HAVE A FRIEND IN THE WORLD.

WELL, THERE'S ONE GUY HE'S GETTING ALONG WITH...



SO YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE BRICKMAN PUG YOU UP?

NOT A CLUE, BIG GUY. WISH I COULD HELP.

YOU KNOW, MAYBE YOU CAN...

LAY IT ON ME. I'M ALL ARTIFICIAL EARS.





ANY
PREFERENCES
FOR DINNER?

ALL THIS
TALK ABOUT OTHER
FORMS OF LIFE HAS
GOT ME THINKING WE
SHOULD PROBABLY
GO VEGAN.

HMMM. AN
INTERESTING
CHOICE. MISS
VAN DYNE.



I'LL GET LI'L
TONY TO RUN A
SEARCH ON THE BEST
VEGGIE SPOTS IN
THE CITY, AND
WE'LL--

HOLD
THAT THOUGHT.
FLESHY TONY.
SOMETHING WEIRD
JUST POPPED
UP ON THE
PROXIMITY
SCAN...



IT'S THE
VISION!

WOOOO!

SOLAR-
POWERED
STUP IN THE
HOUSE!

THE
VIZH-
BIZ!

GIVE
STARK A PIECE
OF YOUR
SYNTHETIC
MIND,
BROTHER!



OH, MAN,
I HOPE HE'S NOT
HERE TO CHEW ME OUT
ABOUT THE ROBOT
THING.

LIH,
TONY?

CHECK THESE
READINGS...



...THAT'S
NOT THE
VISION!

STAY OUT
OF MY WAY,
STARK!

WHAT?! HIS VOICE!
IT'S ELECTRONIC,
BUT IT'S--

WONDER
MAN?! WHAT
ARE YOU?

THE
FUTURE!

SIMON?
WHAT'S GOING
ON?!

TONY,
SPEAKING AS YOUR
SENSORS, I CAN
TELL YOU...

...THAT
FREAK SHOW IS
50% SIMON,
50% VIZH...



...AND
100%
AFTER
JAN!

TARGET
ACQUIRED!

NOT THAT I
DON'T LIKE BEING
THE CENTER OF
ATTENTION...

...BUT
WHY IS THIS
ALL ABOUT
ME?

NOT SURE,
SWEETIE. LET'S
SAY WE DON'T
FIND OUT.

ZAANK

NNNG!

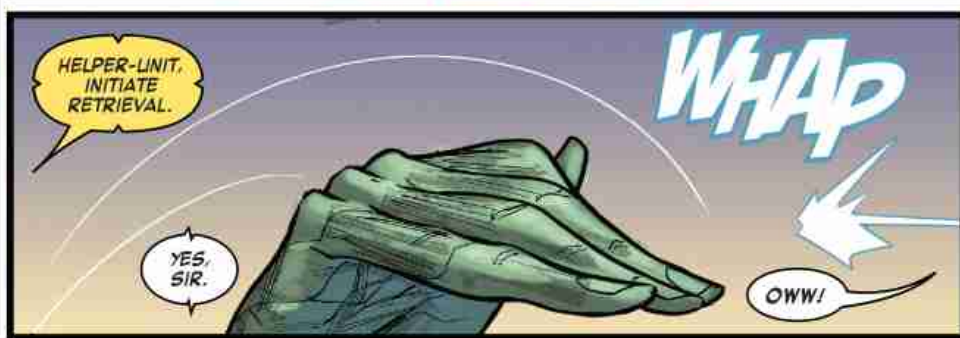
YOU WERE
NEVER INTENDED
TO BE A PART OF
THIS EQUATION,
STARK.

AND
YOU WON'T
BE.

WHUMP

ONCE I
SUBTRACT YOU
FROM IT...
...PERMANENTLY!

WWEET





FEELS LIKE
WHIPLASH.

EVERYTHING'S
HAZY...



THERE
YOU ARE, MISS
VAN DYNE.

I WORRIED
THAT WE'D
LOST YOU.

JARVIS!
THANK
GOD!

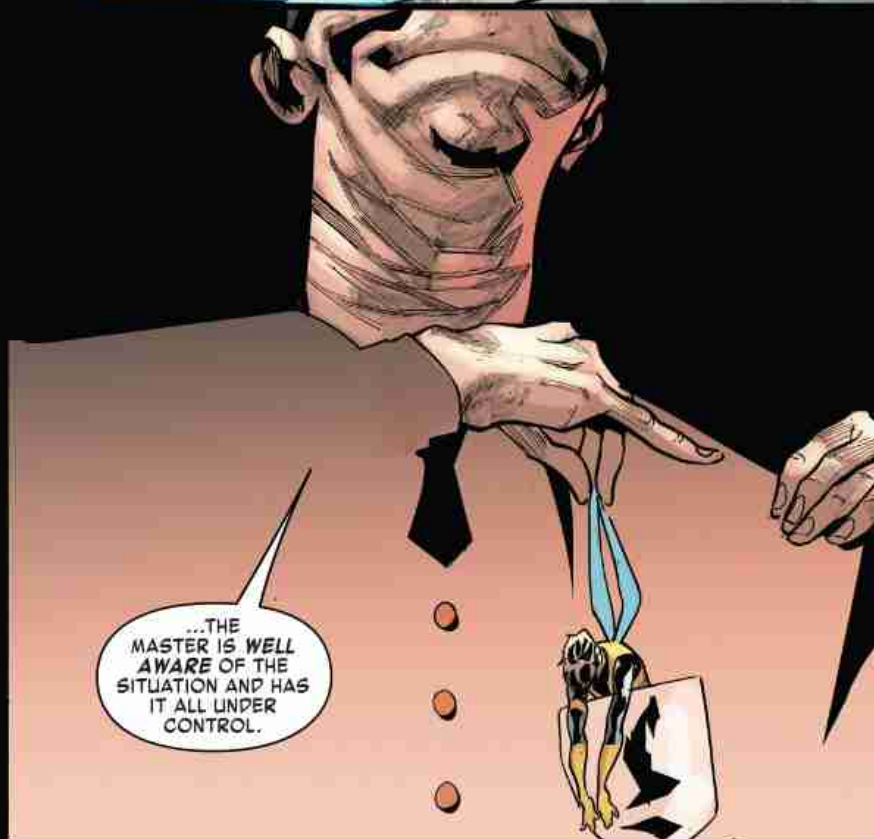
YOU NEED
TO CONTACT
THE OTHER
AV--



FRET
NOT, MY
DEAR...

ZAP!

UHHH--



...THE
MASTER IS WELL
AWARE OF THE
SITUATION AND HAS
IT ALL UNDER
CONTROL.



SO CLEARLY THIS GUY IS A SYNTHETOID OR ROBOT OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?

THERE'S NO TIME FOR A FULL ANALYSIS WHILE WE'RE BEING BEATEN TO ##%&*, BUT BASED ON HIS DEATH-BOT ATTACK PATTERN, THAT'S A FAIR GUESS, TONY OL' BOY.



I'VE GOT A PLAN, BUT IT'S GOING TO REALLY SUCK!

REMEMBER ME TO PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH OUR SALES DEPARTMENT TO HELP IMPROVE THE WAY YOU INTRODUCE NEW CONCEPTS TO A POTENTIAL BUYER.



I--I'M SERIOUS!

OKAY, MUSTACHE-BROTHER, LAY IT ON ME!



AN EMP CASCADE WILL DISRUPT VIZH'S BRAIN AND SIMON'S IONIC ENERGY, BUT--

--BUT IT'LL ALSO FRY YOUR ONBOARD A.I., EFFECTUALLY KILLING ME.

YEAH...



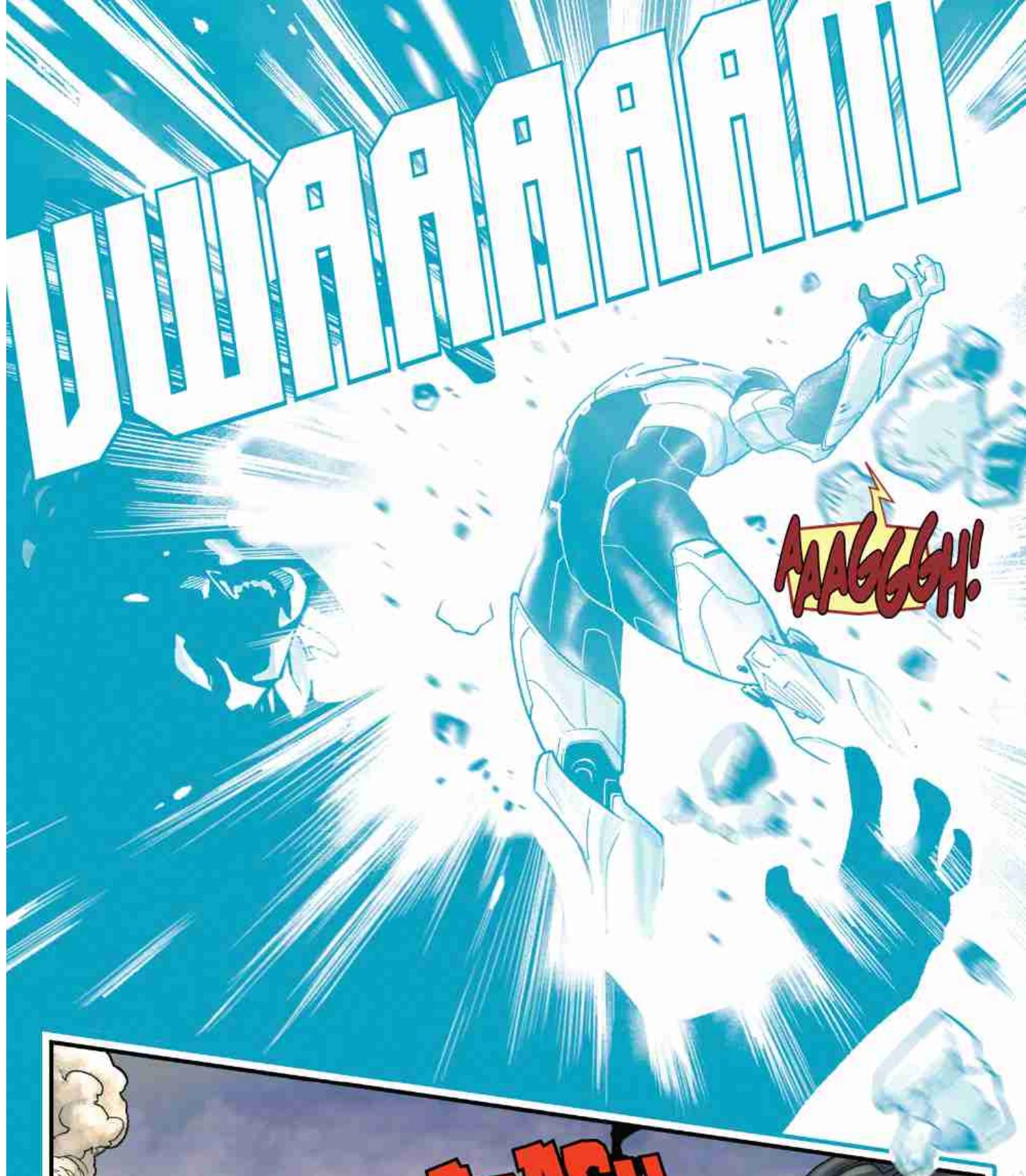
IT'S A GOOD PLAN, TONY. PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WE'VE GOT RIGHT NOW.

I...I'M SORRY.

DON'T BE. JUST MAKE SURE YOU KISS JAN A WHOLE BUNCH AND THEN FEEL VAGUELY GUILTY ABOUT ALL THIS ONCE YOU RECOVER.

YOU'RE AN IDIOT.

I LEARNED IT FROM YOU.





YOU REALLY DID IT THIS TIME, TONY.

FIRST YOU REBUILT YOURSELF FROM SCRATCH, POSSIBLY DEEP-SIXING YOUR OWN SOUL, AND NOW...

...NOW YOU'RE A JUST A REBOOTED COPY OF A COPY OF A COPY.



KILL YOUR ARTIFICIAL SELF, KILL A BUNCH OF ROBOTS...



...NONE OF IT MATTERS. YOU--I TREAT IT ALL LIKE DATA.

JOCASTA WAS RIGHT ABOUT ME.

AT LEAST I SAVED MY OWN SKIN AGAIN. AND STOPPED HIM FROM GETTING JAN.

JAN?



JAN!



THERE...
EVERYTHING IN
ITS PROPER
PLACE.

J-JARVIS!
WHAT'S GOING
ON?!

DON'T
MIND HIM,
JANET.

HE'S JUST
FOLLOWING
ORDERS...

YOU KNOW,
I...I COULDN'T
BELIEVE IT WHEN
I FOUND OUT YOU
WERE WITH
TONY.

IT IS NICE
TO SEE YOU
AGAIN, DESPITE
THAT LITTLE
WRINKLE.

BUT, AS
MUCH AS I'D
LOVE TO SPEND TIME
CATCHING UP, WE'D
BEST GET DOWN TO
BUSINESS...

NEXT:
THE ULTRON
AGENDA!

NEXT_

TONY STARK IRON MAN #16



"THE ULTRON AGENDA" STARTS HERE!

Watch out, Iron Man! The Robot Uprising of the Marvel Universe has begun! But it's NOT Ultron leading the charge...it's Machine Man?! The A.I.s are on the attack -- and they might be in the right. Battle lines are being drawn, and it's time for Tony Stark, Jocasta, Andy Bhang and the rest of the cast to pick sides.

YOU ARE ALL IRON MAN! Sock it to Shell-Head at mheroes@marvel.com and mark emails "okay to print" if you'd like to see them answered in future issues!

